

## Environmental Director's Report November 2021



### ERADICATION

During November our CDL licensed Sr. Environmental Officer Tim Filbeck and Officer Spry used the grapple truck to remove waste illegally dumped at 5 sites outside the city limits of Sulphur Springs, Gravette, Avoca, Springdale, and Lowell.

It takes two staff members to clean up roadside dumps with the grapple truck. Training, PPE, awareness of surroundings, and equipment inspections are all important to safely operate this heavy piece of equipment.

We safely disposed of three couches, bagged household trash, a table, a large flat-screen television, a mattress and a dresser. All of these items except for the household trash could have been taken to a Special Waste Drop-Off location!

We are so thankful for our volunteer groups that help pick up litter along county roads. The Ventris Neighborhood Association collected 17 large bags of litter from the sides of Ventris Road in the Garfield area in November.



## EDUCATION

**America Recycles Day (November 15)** – In case you missed it, some information about our division was shared on Instagram and Facebook. Have you ever wondered what is being recycled and what is being tossed into the landfill? According to the EPA, total municipal solid waste generated in 2018 was approximately 292.4 million tons but so much of what goes into our landfills could have been recycled.

Celebrate America Recycles Day on November 15 by being thoughtful about what you purchase and what you throw away! The Benton County Environmental Division is dedicated to educating about proper waste disposal, eradicating illegal dump sites, and enforcing the state environmental laws and county ordinances. This is no small task so give a “high five” to our officers Spry and Filbeck on America Recycles Day for their dedication to keeping our county clean. We are fortunate to have county officials and environmental officers that care about our environment because after all, there is no planet B!



**NWA Low Impact Development Conference** – The Illinois River Watershed Partnership ([www.irwp.org](http://www.irwp.org)) hosted this conference at the Bentonville Airport in November. The IRWP is a group interested in protecting natural resources and is not a regulatory nor enforcing body, but rather a nonprofit focused on community-based conservation.

As urban areas in NWA grow, the amount of stormwater that cannot infiltrate the ground increases. Traditional stormwater management systems are built to move water away as quickly as possible into creeks and streams. The increased volume and velocity of stormwater erodes the soil and increases pollution. Infrastructure also becomes threatened by stormwater, creating public safety hazards and costing more tax dollars.

Low Impact Development mimics natural processes that result in the infiltration, evaporation, or use of stormwater in order to protect water quality. Speakers at the Conference included Seth Brown of the National Municipal Stormwater Alliance, Scott Simon of The Nature Conservancy, and Carol Wong of the Center for Watershed Protection. Ted Vuong, Gus Leutermann, and Jana Wehby of Walter P. Moore & SWA gave an interesting presentation on the new Walmart Home Office campus' landscape architecture and low impact measures.

**Recycling Survey** - Help guide the Benton County Solid Waste District for the next 10 years of recycling by taking a survey online. Feel free to post the survey link below and share with your friends and family. You can enter for a chance to win an Amazon \$50 gift card at the end of the survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BCSWD2021>

**Staff Learning & Development** – Environmental law enforcement officers must be prepared for anything and capable of making sound decisions. To effectively serve the public, our officers continue to learn and develop their skills. All environmental staff qualified and obtained training at the range. Officers Filbeck and Spry obtained 1 hour of drone training and Officer Filbeck obtained taser re-certification. Officer Spry obtained online training for Criminal Investigations, Missing & Unidentified Persons and Racial Profiling.



**The County Teaching Garden** - Rain gardens are effective in removing up to 90% of nutrients and chemicals and up to 80% of sediments from runoff. Stop by for a visit at the Benton County Road Department located on 14<sup>th</sup> Street in Bentonville. We are looking for a volunteer group to care for our garden that was installed in 2012 with a grant from the Illinois River Watershed Partnership. Call us at 479-271-1083 if you are interested in this community service project.

**The Special Waste Drop-off** is provided by Benton County, the Cities and the Benton County Solid Waste District for recycling and disposal of large household items and household hazardous waste. Limited household items are accepted for free or for low cost.

### 2021 Special Waste Drop-off Bulky Waste Disposal

	HAULS CENTERTON	TONS CENTERTON	WASTE COST CENTERTON	COMPACTION CENTERTON	HAULS ROGERS	TONS ROGERS	WASTE COST ROGERS	COMPACTION ROGERS	HAULS SILOAM	TONS SILOAM	COST SILOAM	TOTAL HAULS	TOTAL TONS	TOTAL COST
NOV	10	24.89	\$4,079.91	\$1,250.00	6	16.76	\$2,545.40	\$1,250.00	0	-	\$106.94	16	41.65	\$9,232.25
YTD	154	335.14	\$48,610.77	\$6,588.50	128	283.49	\$41,201.95	\$6,588.50	5	5.81	\$3,011.62	287	624.44	\$106,001.34

### 2021 COUNTY EXPENSES FOR WASTE DISPOSAL LINE ITEM 3063

2021 County Expenses	Bulky Waste Centerton	Bulky Waste Rogers	Bulky Waste Siloam Springs	Household Hazardous Waste*	Advertising	In-house recycling	Roadside Cleanups	Nuisance Cases	Operations Costs	TOTALS
BUDGET	\$62,000.00	\$43,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,400.00	\$33,150.00	\$42,510.09	\$ 232,060.09
ACTUAL										
NOVEMBER	\$ 5,329.91	\$ 3,795.40	\$ 106.94	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 74.59	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,306.84
SPENT Y-T-D	\$ 55,199.27	\$ 47,790.45	\$ 3,011.62	\$ -	\$ 106.40	\$ 363.99	\$ 268.54	\$ 14,548.50	\$ 42,510.08	\$ 163,798.85

### Benton County

#### 2021 Special Waste Drop-Off Collections

CENTERTON	# OF LOADS	APPLIANCES NON-REFRIG	APPLIANCES REFRIG	ELECTRONICS	METAL	FURNITURE/ OVERSIZED	# MATTRESSES	HHW
November	659	45	63	188	835	606	86	119
2021 YTD	8655	480	649	2532	10374	7499	259	1418
ROGERS	# OF LOADS	APPLIANCES NON-REFRIG	APPLIANCES REFRIG	ELECTRONICS	METAL	FURNITURE/ OVERSIZED	# MATTRESSES	HHW
November	513	37	31	152	466	370	113	108
2021 YTD	5660	301	361	1604	5983	5171	258	1164
SILOAM SPRINGS	# OF LOADS	APPLIANCES NON-REFRIG	APPLIANCES REFRIG	ELECTRONICS	METAL	FURNITURE/ OVERSIZED	# MATTRESSES	HHW
November	60	6	6	46	53	12	3	22
December								
2021 YTD	651	39	58	466	335	222	3	241
ALL SITES COMBINED YTD	14966	820	1068	4602	16692	12892	517	2823

Beaver Shores P.O.A. – Teresa went to the monthly P.O.A. meeting in Beaver Shores and gave a presentation on environmental programs available to our citizens.





## ENFORCEMENT

We have seen a substantial increase in reports of illegal dumping over the last couple of years. Each case requires at least one visit and as many as twelve site visits over the course of a year. In November we received 21 new reports of illegal waste disposal. Currently, we have 18 cases in the court system. Many properties in Benton County that have environmental violations took years to get that way. We strive to educate violators on proper waste disposal and give them time to rectify the problem as long as they work to make significant improvement.

This property was outside the city limits of Lowell. The property owner initially tried to burn his solid waste, including an unwanted structure on the property. After the fire department and Fire Marshal's office conducted their initial assessment, Benton County Environmental was notified to handle the violations and supervise the cleanup.

### BEFORE:



### AFTER:





There were two offenders on this case outside the city limits of Siloam Springs. The male was an electrician that works out of state and is away more than home. Although the female worked on the removal of solid waste, insufficient progress was made and a citation was issued. 10 days before the scheduled final inspection, the female contacted the officer and requested an early final inspection. The citation was changed to a warning because all of the solid waste was removed and a privacy fence was installed.

#### BEFORE:



#### AFTER:





This property was outside the city limits of Rogers. The property owner had numerous items on their lawn, including tires and various household items mixed in with their outdoor items. The property owner cleaned up their yard, even most of the outdoor items that were present were removed.

**BEFORE:**



**AFTER:**



**ENVIRONMENTAL OFFENSES** and actions initiated in November.

OFFENSE TYPE	QTY
Burn (appliances)	0
Burn (auto bodies & parts)	0
Burn (construction debris)	0
Burn (electronics)	0
Burn (furniture)	1
Burn (general waste)	0
Burn (household garbage)	0
Burn (mobile home)	1
Burn (tires)	0
Bury (auto bodies & parts)	0
Bury (construction debris)	0
Bury (electronics)	0
Bury (furniture)	0
Bury (general waste)	0
Bury (household garbage)	0
Bury (mobile home)	0
Bury (trees)	0
Dumped by others (appliances)	1
Dumped by others (auto bodies & parts)	0
Dumped by others (construction debris)	2
Dumped by others (electronics)	1
Dumped by others (furniture)	4
Dumped by others (general waste)	2
Dumped by others (household garbage)	1
Dumped by others (metal)	0
Dumped by others (mobile home)	0
Dumped by others (tires)	1
Dumped by others (trees)	0
Dumped by self (appliances)	0
Dumped by self (auto bodies & parts)	0
Dumped by self (construction debris)	0
Dumped by self (electronics)	0
Dumped by self (furniture)	0
Dumped by self (general waste)	2
Dumped by self (household garbage)	1
Dumped by self (metal)	0
Dumped by self (mobile home)	0
Dumped by self (tires)	0
Dumped by self (trees)	0
OTHER	QTY
Agency Assist	1
Camera Installation	1
Extra Patrol	4
Littering	0
Sign installation	0
Stagnant Water	0

ACTIONS TAKEN THIS MONTH	QTY
NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS ISSUED	0
WARNINGS ISSUED	1
CITATIONS ISSUED	2
WARRANTS ISSUED	1
COURT APPEARANCES	0
CASE STATUS	QTY
CASES OPENED THIS MONTH	21
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES OPENED YTD	339

**What does an Environmental Officer Investigate?**

Environmental Officers are limited to enforcement of solid waste violations in unincorporated Benton County and do not regulate inside any city limits.

We DO NOT investigate septic issues, structure fires, agricultural waste, dead animals such as pets or wild animals, or the illegal disposal of hazardous material.

Our division responds to violations of solid waste regulations that may include;

1. Construction or operation of a solid waste disposal facility or disposal site.
2. Dumping of solid waste upon property owned by another person.
3. Dumping of solid waste on the side of public roads or public property.
4. Solid waste on one's own property that can potentially create a public nuisance or health hazard.
5. Dumping of solid waste into a waterway.
6. Burning of solid waste.
7. Burying of solid waste.

